(c) to (e) Records regarding participation of these Satyagrahis in the Phase-II of the Goa Liberation Movement are available with the respective State Governments. The basis on which these persons are selected for grant of central pension is that they should have been granted pension by the respective State Governments as on 1.8.2002 for their participation in the Phase-II of the Goa Liberation Movement 1954–55).

Atrocities on SCs/STs

†840. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a rise in the incidents of murder and atrocities on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes in the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Uttar Pradesh for last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the State-wise and year-wise details of the atrocities committed especially in terms of murder and arson on them during the last three years; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) The details of State-wise, year-wise and head-wise crimes including murder and arson committed against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) during 2000 to 2002 are at Annexure. [*See* Appendix 200, Annexure 6]

(c) The details of the action taken by the Government to check such incidents are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Measures taken by the Government to check crimes and atrocities committed against SCs/STs.

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution and the primary responsibility of detection, registration, investigation and prosecution as well as prevention of crime lies with the State Governments. The Ministry of Home Affairs, however, has been advising the State Governments from time to time to give more focussed attention to improve the administration of the criminal justice system and to ensure prevention of atrocities against SCs and STs and other vulnerable sections of society. The State Governments/UT Administrations have also been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

advised to take the following steps in a systematic and sustained manner:

(a) Implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Prevention of" Atrocities Act, 1989 for SCs and STs both in letter and spirit.

(b) Identification of atrocities - prone areas, preparing action plans and taking necessary preventive steps to protect the life and property of the members of the SCs and STs in these areas.

(c) Sensitise the police personnel to have a more sympathetic approach while dealing with cases of atrocities against SCs and STs,

(d) Recruitment of sufficient number of persons belonging to SCs and STs in police force especially at the cutting edge level.

(e) Setting up of special cells to deal with offences against SCs and STs and evaluate their working to ensure speedy disposal of pending cases with the Police.

(f) Setting up special courts to reduce the pendency of such cases and to improve the rate of conviction by courts. Devise measures/ strategies to improve the rate of conviction, which could include adequate incentives to witnesses to appear in the courts.

(g) Development programmes for creating awareness among the vulnerable sections of society and legal recourse open to them.

(h) Implement schemes and development programmes for empowering the members of the SC and ST communities.

As a result of the above advisories, the States and Union Territories have taken the following actions:

(a) Special Cells have been set up in the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Pondicherry toward implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

(b) For ensuring early prosecution of cases under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, 137 Exclusive Special Courts, have been set up in the States of Andhra Pradesh (12) Bihar (11), Chhatisgarh (07), Gujarat (10), Karnataka (06), Madhya Pradesh (29), Rajasthan (17), Tamil Nadu (04) and Uttar Pradesh (40) and Uttaranchal (01), Further all State Governments except Aurnachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland, which are predominantly tribal area States, have notified the existing Courts of Sessions as Special Courts for the trial of offences under the Act. Nevertheless, such States, which have significant number of pendency of cases in the courts and have not as yet set up exclusive special courts are being persuaded to set up exclusive special courts for speedy trial of cases under the Act.

(c) Some States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have identified atrocity prone/sensitive areas in the respective States and formulated action plans to curb atrocities against SCs/STs.

Death of a person under Madipur Police Station

841. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sushil Kumar Singh resident of Madipur area was done to death by a team of policemen at the Punjabi Bagh Police Station in October 2003, which led to a street battle between the residents of that area and policemen;

(b) if so, the details of the case and what action has so far been taken against the policemen found responsible in this case; and

(c) whether any compensation was given to the next of the kin of the deceased and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) Delhi Police on the basis of the complaint lodged by the brother of the deceased have registered a criminal case under the relevant provisions of law and taken up the investigation. In the meantime, five police personnel allegedly involved in the case have been placed under suspension pending the outcome of magisterial inquiry.

(c) No, Sir. No compensation has been paid by the Government.